

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2579

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, SA

SUBJ: USG-SAG TALKS DURING DEPSECDEF CLEMENTS VISIT

REF : A. USMTM DTG 071450Z APR 75; B. STATE 76677;

C. JIDDA 2565

1. REF A TRANSMITS SAG IDEAS ON POINTS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING VISIT OF DEPSECDEF CLEMENTS. LIST HEADED "POINTS TO BE DISCUSSED WITH THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR" REPRESENTS MOST ORGANIZED EFFORT WE HAVE YET SEEN BY SAUDIS TO PREPARE THEMSELVES IN ADVANCE FOR HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS WITH USG OFFICIALS. LIST DOES, HOWEVER, BETRAY A CERTAIN TENDENCY TO CONCENTRATE ON MINOR POINTS RATHER THAN ON THE BROADER PICTURE. TO ASSIST IN PREPARING USG POSITION, WE OFFER FOLLOWING COMMENTS.

2. LIST OF SPECIFIC FMS CASES:

AVOID GETTING BOGGED DOWN IN CASE-BY-CASE RESPONSE TO LIST OF 12 FMS CASES AT TOP OF SAG LIST. BELIEVER BEST WAY TO RESPOND TO THIS PROBLEM IS TO PRESENT PAPER STATING STATUS OF EACH ITEM REFERRED TO AND ACTION BEING TAKEN TO
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RESOLVE SAG CONCERN. SAUDIS WILL BE SEEKING EVIDENCE THAT

DEPSECDEF IS AWARE OF THEIR CONCERNS AND IS SYMPATHETICALLY ASSISTING THEIR SOLUTION. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT POINT SHOULD BE MADE THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARY THAT SUCH PROBLEMS BE SAVED FOR RAISING AT SUCH A HIGH LEVEL -- THAT WHEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF GENERAL AHMANN, WHO WAS PERSONALLY SELECTED AS CHUSMTM BY MR. CLEMENTS, SUCH MATTERS ARE ASSURED HIGH LEVEL TREATMENT IN WASHINGTON.

3. VALIDITY OF LOA'S:

SOMETHING MUST BE DONE TO OBTAIN LETTERS OF OFFER WITH COST ESTIMATES VALID FOR LONGER SUSPENSE DATES. A SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM WOULD ELIMINATE MUCH CORRESPONDENCE AND DUPLICATED EFFORT BY ELIMINATING REQUESTS FOR EXTENSION AND NEW COST ESTIMATES.

4. SAG CONCERN OVER USE OF SAG FUNDS:

WE DETECT GROWING SAG CONCERN ON THIS ISSUE; RESTATED, WE DETECT DECLINING SAG CONFIDENCE IN OUR ASSURANCES THAT WE ARE JUST AS CAREFUL WITH THEIR MONEY AS WE ARE WITH OURS. WE BELIEVE THIS CONCERN IS REFLECTED IN MODA DESIRE FOR MORE FISCAL DATA ON SNEP, AND ALSO STANDS BEHIND MODA STATEMENT THAT THEY FOUND PEACE HAWK V COST ESTIMATES TO BE "IMAGINARY." WE TRUST THAT THE USG WILL CONTINUE TO EXERCISE PRUDENCE IN BILLING SAG FOR DEFENSE-RELATED COSTS, AND AVOID GROWTH OF ATTITUDE THAT SAG CAN PAY FOR ANYTHING BECAUSE OF ITS ENORMOUS WEALTH. REITERATEION BY DEPSECDEF OF USG CONCERN OVER USE OF SAG MONIES, NOT ONLY TO SAG OFFICIALS BUT TO USG OFFICIALS AS WELL, MAY HELP.

5. FUNDING OF US ADVISORY EFFORT:

ITEM IN MODA WORKING PAPER, "AUALITY OF THE ADVISORS AND INCREASING THEIR TOUR IN SAUDI ARABIA," OFFERS KEY TO PRESENTATION OF NEED FOR INCREASED SAG FUNDING OF US ADVISORY EFFORT. WHILE ADMITTING THAT CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC OPINION HAVE CREATED NEW ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH CAPABLE RECIPIENT NATIONS ARE NOW BEING ASKED TO REIMBURSE USG FOR ADVISORY COSTS, STRESS SHOULD BE LAID ON POINT THAT MANY OF THE COSTS WE WILL CONFIDENTIAL

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BE ASKING SAG TO PAY ARE TO ENABLE US TO MAKE ACCOMPANIED, TWO-YEAR TOURS IN SAUDI ARABIA ATTRACTIVE TO PERSONNEL WITH THE HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS, SO AS TO BE ABLE TO OFFER THE BEST POSSIBLE ADVICE TO SAG. IN MAKING GENERAL PRESENTATION (WE WOULD EXPECT MORE DETAILED EXPLANATION AND ACUTAL PRESENTATION OF LETTERS OF OFFER AND PROPOSED MOU TO TAKE PLACE LATER), MR. CLEMENTS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE APPROPRIATE COMPARISONS WITH IRAN, NOTING KINDS OF EXPENSES GOI PAYS, WHICH ARE PRE-

SUMABLY SIMILAR TO WHAT WE WILL BE ASKING SAG TO COVER. WE WOULD NOT EXPECT THAT WE WOULD ASK SAG TO PAY FOR CATEGORIES OF EXPENSES FOR WHICH WE ARE NOT CHARGING IRAN; NOR FOR USG TO SUBSIDIZE SAG IN AREAS FOR WHICH GOI IS REIMBURSING US. WE EXPECT SIZE OF OUR REQUEST, INCLUDING SUPPLEMENTARY FIFTY MILLION FOR HOUSING AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION, WILL BE A SURPRISE TO MODA.

6. AMENDING FMS FORM:

WE TAKE THIS INQUIRY TO MEAN SAG IS WONDERING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AMENDING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON THE BACK OF THE FORM.

7. CLARIFICATION OF TRANSLATION OR TYPOS TRASMITTED REF A:

A. PARAGRAPH IV.B (TARGET ACQUISITION BATTERY EQUIPMENT) REFERS TO "NEWLY DEVELOPED EQUIPMENT." ACUTAL MEANING HERE IS REBUILT REPEAT REBUILT, OR RECONDITIONED, EQUIPMENT. WE DO NOT BELIEVE SAUDIS WILL CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF REBUILT EQUIPMENT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. HENCE THE STATEMENT "THOSE LETTERS OF OFFER DID NOT MEET OUR NEEDS."

B. PARA VII.F AGAIN REFERS TO REBUILDS. SUGGEST FIRST SENTENCE PARA F SHOULD READ "SOME LOA'S PROVIDE FOR REBUILT (OR RECONDITIONED) EQUIPMENT AND COMPONENTS THEREOF." AGAIN, UNACCEPTABLE TO SAG.

C. BELIEVE THIRD FMS CASE LISTED IN LIST OF TWLEVE MAY BE UII REPEAT UII.

D. PARA IC: USMTM NOTE CORRECT; SAG LETTER DEFINITELY REFERS TO LOA FOR TOW MISSILES. SAUDIS WILL BE HOPING FOR RESPONSIVE
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OFFER.

E. PARA VII.E: BELIEVE CASE UEY REPEAT UEY IS CASE REFERRED TO.

8. ROLES OF SULTAN VS TURKI IN TALKS:

DURING JOINT SECURITY COMMISSION MEETINGS, TURKI DEALT WITH MATARIEL ACQUISITION ANDOTHER INTERNAL MODA PROGRAMS; SULTAN FOCUSED ON POLITICAL ISSUES. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY DIVISION OF EFFORT IN UPCOMING TALKS. PRESENTATION ON SAG FUNDING OF USG ADVISORY EFFORT, HOWEVER, WILL NEED TO BE MADE TO SULTAN.
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